



#10

EB
7/16/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Confirmation No.: 8241

VAN DER VEEN

Group Art Unit: 2881

Appln. No.: 09/988,387

Examiner: JOHNSTON, PHILLIP

Filed: November 19, 2001

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD, AND INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
MANUFACTURED THEREBY

July 9, 2003

* * * * *

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2003, reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Gelernt (US Patent No. 6,369,398) in view of Partlo et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0105994) and further in view of Suzuki (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020220). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

With respect to claims 1-8, the Office Action contends that Gelernt discloses a lithographic system used in fabrication of integrated circuits (IC) having the elements recited in the claims. The Office Action concedes that Gelernt does not disclose the use of an acoustic sensor to detect sounds caused by the passage of pulses of radiation of the projection